entitled to grant of an ex-gratia gratuity upto a maximum of Rs. 6000/- on their superannuation at the age of 65 years. Besides benefits under Group Insurance . Scheme to eligible ED Agents also become payable as per terms and conditions laid down by Government.

Orientation Course for Tourists visiting National Parks

2176. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to start orientation course for tourists visiting National Parks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any fruitful result is expected out of such courses; and

(d) whether responsibility is to be fixed on persons on duty to ensure proper maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir. However, visitor information and interpretation centres have been established in major National Parks and Sanctuaries to educate and orient the visitors for wildlife and nature conservation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Staff, including guides, posted in national parks and sanctuaries are responsible for ensuring that tourists follow the prescribed code of conduct inside' these areas. However, effective implementation of these regulations" also requires cooperation and support of the visitors.

Additional funds to central Road Fund

2177. SHRI NARAIN PRASAD GUPTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any resolution for providing additional funds to the States for the maintenance of roads and development works under Central Road Fund was passed by Parliament;

(b) whether the resolution has since been implemented; and

(c) what are the reasons for. not having any improvement in Central Road Fund in spite of passing of the said resolution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No; Sir.

(c) The resolution could not be implemented so far due to budgetary constraints.

Afforestation Programme in Darjeeling

2178. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of tourist ranges brought under the programmes of afforestation in Darjeeling Hills during the last three years;

(b) the Range-wise areas covered under such programmes; and

(c) what was the amount of funds alloted and utilised for such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Negotiations with tenderers by Modern Food Industries Ltd.

2179. SHRI KAILASH NARAIN SARANG: